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Maine Library Commission Minutes, April 25, 2016

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Maine State Library Commission

****APRIL 25, 2016 MEETING MINUTES ****

Meeting called to order at 1:00PM.

Attendance

Commission Members Present: Joyce Rumery (chair), Helen Fogler, Jeff Cabral, Sarah Campbell, Art Turley, Charles Campo, Cora Damon, Richard Thompson, and Debe Averill (via teleconference)

Also Present: James Ritter (State Librarian, MSL), Alison Maxell (MSL), Janet McKenney (MSL), James Jackson Sanborn (Maine InfoNet), Sherry Wyman (DOE), Mike Muir (DOE) and Adam Fisher (MSL)

Welcome

The chair opened the meeting at 1:00PM and called for a round of introductions from attendees.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from January 2016 Maine Library Commission were approved.

Discussion on School Library Programs

Mike Muir updated the commission on changes at the Maine Department of Education (DOE) concerning the school library consultant, Sherry Wyman. Muir noted that the position was pulled into a larger leadership team within the department working on the Maine Learning Technology Initiative. The group is comprised of staff from many different backgrounds. Muir noted that by not naming any one particular role with one particular specialty, we would have greater flexibility to hire a team that could implement the work statewide. Had they not chosen to keep a dedicated library specialist, DOE would have had to drop the library consultant position to half-time.

Sherry Wyman said that the change was a good opportunity for a librarian to serve in a leadership position within DOE in meeting with school administrators around the state. She noted that she continues to be engaged in the following activities:

- Liaison for Maine Assn of school librarians – meets with them monthly.
- Responds to professional development requests.
- Meets with regional superintendents and works with districts to ensure that they are in compliance with the law requiring each district has a certified library specialist.
- Continues to serve on the ALA nominating committee

With regard to the element of her work that relates to school libraries, Wyman said, “Is it enough – no – there is a lot happening now, but my job is to continue to ensure strong professional school library services.”

Debe Averill expressed concern that in many schools there isn't a strong connection between the certified person and non-certified staff. The process might include that the certified person have some sort of oversight over non-certified staff.

Helen Fogler asked about how long school districts can get away with having very part time staff providing professional services. Mike Muir noted that it depends on the person doing the school approval – Sherry is not involved in the approval process and can't intervene directly. Fogler expressed concern that this is a huge job and requires more than what is being dedicated to it now. Mike Muir said that it was in the hands of the legislature to provide more funding to that particular priority.

James Ritter updated the commission on a meeting he had with the Commissioner of Education regarding restructuring at DOE. Commissioner is a big idea person and was open to trying some new ways to make school libraries stronger. He distributed a summary of discussion points to commission members.

Staff Updates

James Ritter

Every part of the organization has been very busy. We have been experiencing growing pains, but it has all been good. The leadership team meets regularly and looks for ways to collaborate better to tackle some of the big things that are happening.

We are already looking at the budget for the next biennium in an effort to seek more resources for our priority initiatives. We will be seeking a full-time school library consultant as part of that request.

The Cultural Affairs Council has been in discussions on how to approach planning the upcoming bicentennial and best leveraging this important milestone in the state's history to draw attention to the needs of Maine's cultural institutions in preserving and celebrating Maine's history and traditions.

We are at a critical point in terms of the condition of the Cultural Building. The facility needs major upgrades including roof repairs, HVAC replacement and asbestos remediation. The asbestos is not creating an air quality issue (testing has been done) but it will pose a problem with any renovation efforts. There are discussions about the possibility of replacing the building and we have funding for an architectural assessment.

Collections and Digital Initiatives - Adam Fisher

We continue to be busy with scanning projects involving MSL and outside collections. Digital content is being created by outside partners at a faster rate than it can be post processed and added to the repository.

Although many of the items being digitized are from the Maine State Library collection, we've also had the opportunity to digitize newspapers – old as well as new. We have reached out to the last owner of

the Maine Times to seek a copyright waiver for digitizing that whole series of newspapers spanning a period of about 34 years.

Library Development - Janet McKenney

IMLS Stem grant libraries have been doing assessments related to their work.

Cornerstones of Science recently received funding through a NASA grant. Ten Maine libraries will be part of the project – look for an application announcement this fall.

Standards review committee will be meeting online in an effort to overcome scheduling challenges.

Only a handful of libraries didn't complete their annual report. Whitman Memorial Library is thinking of withdrawing from the system because they are not interested in doing the report. Janet had a conversation with their town council. Orrs Island Library, Owls Head Village Library and Glenburn Public Library also did not complete a report.

Just hit the one-year mark for the NYPL rural broadband grant - eighty WIFI devices have been distributed throughout Washington County as part of the project.

LSTA funding for the new year increased by \$4,000.

Maine is one of four states to be written in as a regional RIPL site for events in 2017 that will involve other New England states.

Reading Roundup had another successful year. Demand for the conference has grown to the point where we can no longer hold it in the same venue next year.

Public Service - Alison Maxell

Busy with staffing changes/hiring underway.

Up room launched in the fall and we are getting users through the door. Staff are also taking the equipment on the road. 3-D printer was a hit at a recent ham radio event.

Genealogy services continue to grow. Emily Schroeder has been doing regular programming here at MSL and is taking her expertise on the road. We see this as a model that could be implemented in other areas of expertise with reference staff.

We've done a number of collaborations with the Kennebec Historical Society and turnout has been great.

We have recently wrapped up our internship program. We sponsored four students this round and gave them substantive work experience. It was positive for everyone involved.

We are looking at a pilot project with Maine Humanities Council to provide an author/mentor adult summer reading program in Maine.

Maine InfoNet

Download library invoices went out recently and payments are coming in. This will bring in about \$95K for content. Approximately \$14K has already been spent renewing content and purchasing new content.

Next MILS library to go live will be Ricker Memorial Library.

Triple-I has developed a group of APIs to work with INN-Reach (MaineCat) to make it easier for different library systems to work together.

Other Updates

James Ritter talked about the Network Maine participation fee – the group has received feedback on the proposal. It has allowed us to open doors to legislators to let them know what is happening. There was a discussion about CIPA compliance and we have had numerous meetings with libraries involved with that.

Richard Thompson updated the commission on rural broadband efforts. ConnectME Authority has issued \$1million in grants to upgrade services in rural Maine. A pilot project is moving forward to implement external wireless on libraries by paying for bandwidth used by the service – the project will roll out first in Greenville.

Discussion regarding Meeting Agenda

Art Turley suggested that it would be important to return to the consent agenda, which would allow the group to spend less time on staff updates given the fact that the reports already list those details.

Shared Resource Committee

Jeff Cabral indicated that the committee has met three times since its start in January. Most of the conversations have related to the structure of the consultants. There were a lot of discussions and ideas shared, related to issues that should be talked about before the whole commission.

Sarah Campbell noted that the committee formed to address three issues:

- Role of ARRCs and ARRC funding
- Consultant Services Model
- Structure of Library Districts

The commission discussed whether or not the subcommittee should be a standing group or serve a temporary purpose of making recommendations related to what is needed in terms of all three focus areas where reform may be needed.

Art Turley indicated that beyond those three issues that the commission or a subcommittee should be more involved with understanding the budget of the Maine State Library so that we can verify that it is aligned with the priorities of the commission.

Sarah Campbell suggested that the ARRCs meet separately to come up with something on paper related to the role of the ARRCs in providing regional services.

The chair suggested that concerns related to the ARRC be dealt with separately with recommendations for an upcoming meeting.

Commission members discussed whether or not the Shared Resources Committee should continue. James Ritter suggested that in the absence of a committee, it may make sense for him to convene stakeholders for work projects of concern to the committee and then bring the feedback from such meetings to the Commission for discussion. The future agenda could include a half-hour discussion related to a subject of concern to libraries.

Charles Campo, supported by Dick Thompson, underscored the importance of the role of the Commission to be advisory to the State Librarian, and the Commission should always be mindful not to micromanage operations of the Maine State Library. Both agreed, along with other Commissioners that, the Commission's role is to bring awareness of important issues that the State Librarian would then be tasked with reporting on, and/or, identifying solutions that would have the support of the Commission.

Prior to the meeting adjourning the following provides a definitive reiteration of the meeting and next steps:

- 1) Future meetings will have a consent agenda format for minutes, and departmental reports.
- 2) The Shared Resource Committee has been disbanded – as it relates to the continuing assessment of the consultant services Janet Mckenney can use members of that former committee as “kitchen cabinet” to bounce ideas and get advice, etc.
- 3) Each Commission meeting will have a portion dedicated to hearing specific updates relating to tasked assignments. For example, the June 20, 2016 meeting will have specific updates regarding the consulting services, and a report regarding MSL's budget and funding related to ARRC services.
- 4) Each Commission meeting will have an agenda item dedicated to discussing emerging issues in which the Commission would like further information/reporting to be given at a subsequent meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:47 PM

Maine Library Commission Scheduled Meetings for 2016

- June 20, 2016 – 1PM at Maine State Library Studio
- September 26, 2016 – 1PM at Maine State Library Studio
- November 28, 2016 – 1PM at Maine State Library Studio